



# The United States Army Field Band

Woodwind Ambassadors Bio  
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The Musical Ambassadors of the Army  
*Washington, DC*

## THE WOODWIND AMBASSADORS

**The Woodwind Ambassadors** is the only ensemble in The United States Army Field Band's educational outreach program to focus exclusively on elementary schools. Its mission is to educate students from kindergarten through grade six about the instruments of the woodwind quintet, and to encourage them to discover the joys of music within their lives. The group demonstrates its instruments and their capabilities, presents stories that illustrate specific characteristics of each instrument, emphasizes the diverse nature of music through pieces from a variety of cultures, and facilitates a question-and-answer sessions for students and teachers alike.

**Staff Sergeant Nancy McCaskill, flute**, is from Columbia, South Carolina. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of South Florida and a Master of Music from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. Her teachers include Irene Maddox, Mark Thomas, Marilyn Froelich, Brad Garner, and Randy Bowman. SSG McCaskill has won runner-up in the Florida Flute Association Young Artist's Competition and has performed with the Lake Placid Flute Symposium. She joined the Field Band in 2003.

**Master Sergeant Cynthia Bartolomeo, oboe**, is a lifelong resident of Washington, DC. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees in music from The Catholic University of America. She joined the Field Band in 1976 and has been the English horn soloist with the Concert Band since 1982. She was a featured soloist on the 1995 Fall Tour, and was a 1993 winner of the Baltimore Chamber Music Competition. A Counseling Psychology graduate of Bowie State University, MSG Bartolomeo also has extensive experience working as a family therapist and child counselor.

**Sergeant First Class Shari Smith, clarinet/narrator**, is a native of Hulbert, Oklahoma. She holds a Bachelor of Arts from Northeastern State University (OK), a Master of Music from the University of Oklahoma—Norman, and a Doctor of Musical Arts in clarinet performance from Michigan State University. SFC Smith taught at Lansing Community College, and has performed with the Jackson and Lansing symphonies in Michigan. She joined the Field Band in 1993 and was a featured soloist on the 1996 Fall Tour. Her experience as a radio announcer for several Midwestern stations adds strength to her additional role as narrator for the Woodwind Ambassadors.

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**Staff Sergeant Shannon Kiewitt, clarinet/narrator**, is originally from Sevierville, Tennessee. She received her Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from Indiana University, studying with Howard Klug. SSG Kiewitt joined the Field Band in August 2001 and was a featured soloist on the 2002 Spring Tour. She has performed under such notable conductors as Kurt Masur, Peter Schneider, and Christoph von Dohnanyi, and has studied in Europe with Luis Rossi, Robert Spring, Eddy Vanoosthuyse, and Alfred Prinz.

**Staff Sergeant Holly Wood, bassoon**, is a native of Mandan, North Dakota. She received her Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from the University of North Texas where she studied with Kathleen Reynolds. While playing with the UNT Woodwind Quintet, she was a finalist in the Coleman Music Competition and the Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition. She has also performed with the Fort Worth, Garland, and Irving symphony orchestras. She joined the Field Band in 2001 and was selected as a featured soloist for the 2002 Fall Tour. She performs with both The United States Army Field Band Woodwind Quintet and the Woodwind Ambassadors.

**Sergeant First Class Patrick Lipphardt, horn**, is from Colorado Springs, Colorado, and joined the U.S. Army Music Program in 1978. While attending Colorado State University, he majored in music and studied with David Kaslow. Before winning a position in the Field Band in 1990, SFC Lipphardt served in the 5th Infantry Division Band at Ft. Polk, Louisiana, and the 79th Army Band in Panama. He has served as an instructor for the Air Force Bands of Bolivia and the Youth Orchestra of Panama, and has recorded extensively for Panamanian Television. Currently, he is the Field Band horn section leader. SFC Lipphardt's fluency in several languages greatly increases the Woodwind Ambassadors' ability to reach the culturally diverse populations of today's American schools.

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